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Eva Hall to Aubrey Hall, 22 November 1903

c/o Mrs H H Holly
Gunyah
Brunswick Junction
S W Railway, W A
Nov 22nd 1903

My dear Aubrey

I have been wondering sometime when you intended answering my last letter, is it writer's cramp or simply no time? Of course there is little or no news from a place like this but as I have just returned from the Bridgetown Show I thought I might give you some interesting items.

First, Gerald's wife, I saw very little of her, but she seems to be a great success. I stayed the week at Eva's & as they don't speak to Gerald it makes it rather difficult to see much of the Park people, however, of course I called & was invited to tea & later on for a week or 2. She is young (23), pretty & accomplished & dresses beautifully, seems quite a society girl & I can't imagine how Gerald secured her. When asked if he had much difficulty he says 'oh! no I knocked 15 fellows off the perch & just put out my hand & took the bird' — she will probably improve him as Nellie has Ted, *he* is not nearly so boisterous in his manner as formerly. Isobel is very particular about the O in her name & will not be called Isabel. She receives £7 per week & more later on & the old father (her only living relative) lives with them & she is most devoted to him.

The Cundenup governess has arrived & they are all charmed with her, of course she is a finishing one & will be splendid for the 2 younger girls, they seem to have thrown heart & soul into their studies & I've no doubt will repay the expenditure. I wrote to Cousin Fanny for them in June & she has only succeeded early this month in getting the right one, so she should be highly satisfactory.

I saw Frances, Arthur & Connie at the Show, also David Forrest, wife & daughter, the Fairbairns, the George Forrests, the Saunders (with whom I spent a day or 2), Sir James & Lady Steere & 2 daughters & a host of others, with Frances to pilot me round & introduce I spent a very pleasant time.

Ted & Nellie have moved, bought a place a few miles out of Bridgetown & as my time was limited I didn't have a chance of seeing it. They both seem well & Blanche is still with them. Edie thinks she will be married at the end of the year, but has not let me know for certain yet. I shall endeavour to be present. Georgie & babies have just returned from their month's holiday at Yerriminup & I hear Amy is going to Perth soon & then on to the Blackwood, no doubt quite anxious to meet the new sister-in-law.

I am helping Mrs Holley during the harvest & doing some of her sewing, for which I receive £2 per month but unfortunately it won't last as they can't afford regular help & afterwards I think of going to Perth get a billet if possible.

I am pleased to tell you that Randle has got quite a number of comforts for Eva lately, she was really ill & weak & had to go to Cundenup for a month's rest & I suppose he thought she was going to die. Lately he got her a beautiful little buggy & silver mounted harness, which enables her to drive about more & now that Bertha is older & very capable in the home I dare say Eva won't be nearly so tied down. Mrs Rogers is a splendid musician & is getting them on splendidly.

I forgot to tell you that Isobel sang at the Bridgetown concert & quite brought the house down, her voice is very much above the average & her style etc quite professional.

Murie is in Bunbury for a week whilst the Revd is at Synod. I ran in to see her last Wed & we spent most of the day on the Beach. I can have a horse & buggy or the pair almost any day I wish & so you see they are extra considerate for one & I am quite sorry I won't be here longer.

Just fancy! Sammy wrote me on the 11th of July & I received the letter about a fortnight ago, it appears it was addressed to Mrs Mackay's care & she was just leaving for the north, so it followed her to Mundabullangana & she thinking it quite unimportant calmly put it in her desk & gave it me on her return, of course I would have answered it & he must have thought me quite a pig all this time. *Now*, I don't know where he is or anything.

I enclose the acct of Gerald's wedding in case you haven't seen it.
Write soon & give me all the latest news about every one. Love to you
all
Eva

I hope you liked your book, I am sorry poor old Merriman is dead. Mrs Holley sends very kind regards to you all.